**North Johnstone River bridge remediation works**

Queensland Rail is undertaking remediation works on the North Johnstone River rail bridge on the North Coast line, approximately one kilometre south of Daradgee.

Completed in 1924, this large steel bridge spans the North Johnstone River connecting Innisfail and Mirriwinni. The remediation works are necessary to provide safe, timely and adequate rail services between Townsville and Cairns.

**What is involved?**

The full program of works will take place in stages over a four-year period, weather and construction conditions permitting.

Stage 1 works will commence in mid-September 2015 and include surveying the rail corridor, undertaking civil improvements to existing access roads around the bridge on the northern and southern sides of the North Johnstone River, and undertaking engineering investigations on the structure.

To enable project team access during investigations and throughout works, scaffolding will also be erected on the bridge.

Following a competitive tender process, a contract to undertake the first program of bridge remediation works is expected to be awarded for commencement in February 2016.

Later stages of remediation works involve:

* Pier, headstock and bearing repairs
* Full bridge cleaning, component replacement and painting

Following the remediation works, Queensland Rail will upgrade the track over the bridge.

**Safety is our priority**

Safety is the number one priority for Queensland Rail. To provide a safe work environment for workers and the community, access around the bridge and work sites will be restricted to authorised personnel during works.

Queensland Rail will be engaging with adjacent residents and property owners to clearly communicate potential construction impacts and ensure safety is maintained at all times.

**Construction impacts**

Queensland Rail will be working closely with Cassowary Coast Regional Council, adjacent residents and land owners to understand project impacts and minimise disruption during construction.

Construction impacts for nearby residents and landowners may include an increase in vehicle movements, equipment and materials delivery, dust, vibration and noise.

Every effort will be made to minimise these impacts.

Residents and landowners will be given advance notification of periods of heightened activity, temporary access route or property restrictions, excessive noise or night works in accordance with Queensland Rail’s community engagement guidelines.

Queensland Rail apologises for any inconvenience and thanks nearby residents and the local community for their cooperation during these important works.

**Caring for the environment**

Queensland Rail is committed to responsible environmental management and achieving good environmental outcomes.

We recognise that these works will be undertaken in sensitive environments adjacent to farm crops and over an important waterway.

Every precaution will be taken to ensure minimal environmental impact throughout the construction period, including the use of rock pad construction exits, erosion and sediment control measures, and barriers to prevent project workers from entering sensitive banana or other crop fields during construction.

**Keeping you informed**

Queensland Rail is committed to keeping stakeholders and the community informed about its activity along the North Coast line corridor.

For more information about this project, please phone 13 16 17 (between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday) or email **communityengagement@qr.com.au**.